

**SOLANO-NAPA COUNTY FSA NEWS**

*February 2008*

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**County Committee**

Richard Hamilton (LAA 2)  
Craig Gnos (LAA 3)  
Linda Neal (LAA 1)  
Craig Nakahara, Advisor

**County Executive Director**

Lynda Janne

**Contact Numbers**

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**County Office Staff**

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

***3/1/08: Deadline to purchase coverage on annually planted crops (vineseed, sunflower, NI safflower, sweet corn, etc)***

***4/30/08: Last date to timely file report of fall-seeded crops.***

**COC ELECTION**

Congratulations to Linda Neal, who was re-elected as representative for the farmers and ranchers of LAA 1 on the Solano-Napa County FSA Committee. Raymond Reyes will serve as Alternate.

We thank all the voters who took the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

**2005-07 DISASTER PROGRAM EXTENSION**

On Dec. 26, 2007, the President signed the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (2008 Act). The 2008 Act amended the previous Feb. 28, 2007, date and now allows for crops planted prior to Dec. 31, 2007, for the 2007 crop year, to be included for loss purposes under CDP. Similarly, under LIP and LCP, the 2008 Act extends the date livestock and livestock feed losses could have occurred in a primary or contiguous counties named in a Secretarial or Presidential disaster declaration to Dec. 31, 2007.

This date change does not make 2008 crops planted in 2007 eligible for CDP, however it does benefit farmers in that it extends the eligibility date for crops planted in 2007 that were intended for harvest in the same

crop year, and it adds 10 months to the amount of eligible time livestock losses can be considered for the new programs.

Sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began Sept. 10, 2007. Sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began Oct. 15, 2007, and applies to farmers who suffered quantity losses to their crops. Ending dates for the sign-up period have not yet been determined.

LCP now compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between 1/1/05 and 12/31/07, due to a natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses occurring between 1/1/05 and 12/31/07, due to a natural disaster.

Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, are eligible, as are producers located in contiguous counties. Also, producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may be eligible.

Producers with grazing losses or livestock losses can receive benefits for only one year per administrative county. Inventory on the application will be the number of eligible livestock on the non-irrigated pasture on the beginning date of the claimed disaster.

CDP now provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Dec. 31, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Dec. 31, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005,

2006 or 2007 can receive benefits for only one of those years on an administrative county basis. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

#### **DAIRY DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DDAP-III)**

The DDAP-III program is authorized by the Appropriations Act of 2007 and will provide assistance to dairy producers who suffered production losses as a result of natural disasters. The legislation provides for payments to dairy producers for dairy producers in counties declared a natural disaster (and contiguous counties) during the periods 1/1/05 through 12/31/07.

Base Period	Claim Period
2005	Jan – Dec 05
2006	Jan – Dec 06
2007	Jan – Dec 07

Eligible production losses will be determined by establishing an estimated base year production for the base period. Estimated base year production for Solano or Napa counties is determined based on data obtained from NASS for milk production per cow in California during the applicable base period. The average number of cows in the operation's herd during the applicable base period is multiplied times the applicable NASS State average to determine the estimated base year production for the dairy operation. Actual marketed production is subtracted from the estimated base year production to determine the production loss eligible for payment.

Actual production that exceeds the estimated base year production means the dairy operation incurred no eligible production losses for that claim period.

To establish production history and calculate eligible losses, adequate proof of the following must be provided:

- ❖ Dairy herd inventories
- ❖ Commercial milk production marketed for the base period and claim period
- ❖ Production not marketed (dumped or spoiled)
- ❖ Dairy cows added to the herd to offset production losses

#### **NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

For non-insurable crops, such as vineyard, sunflower, some bean crops, sudan for seed, native pasture, 5<sup>th</sup> year alfalfa, young orchards, etc, FSA offers assistance for producers suffering catastrophic losses through the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP).

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops. All applications for coverage must be filed and the applicable service fees paid at the FSA office by the application closing date. For coverage, you must pay a service fee of \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per county, or not to exceed \$900 if you are in multiple counties. *You should review and apply for coverage on all crops you intend to grow, and specify the intended use of that crop.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Crop Disaster Program for losses on 05-07 crops limit eligibility to those crops which were covered by crop insurance or NAP. Don't miss the application deadlines to obtain coverage on your future crops. If you are unsure of the deadline for a crop, **CALL YOUR AGENT OR THIS OFFICE.**

NonInsured Assistance Program (NAP) Historical Deadlines	
<u>Crops</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>
Citrus: oranges, lemons, limes, avocados, Grapefruit, tangelos	Jan 1
Annuals: squash, carrots, sunflower, etc	Mar 1
Fall Planted Seed Crops (includes all grain, fall or spring)	Aug 1
Forage Crops (grass hay crops, pasture, alfalfa, etc)	Sep 1
Value Loss/Controlled Environment Crops (aquaculture, flowers, etc)	Sep 1
Garbanzo Beans	Sep 1
Fall planted Garlic	Oct 1
Onions / Honey	Oct 1
Fruit & Nut Tree Crops: almonds, apricots, cherries, kiwi, olives, peaches, pears, plums, walnuts, asparagus, strawberries, grapes, etc	Dec 15



### **UPDATING FARM RECORDS**

**It is each producer's responsibility to report their farm operation completely and accurately.**

**If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land (this is not only cropland, but also rangeland), make sure you report the changes to your FSA office as soon as the change occurs. For farm ownership changes, you will need to provide a recorded deed.**

**Take the time to review the forms on file in this office. Your payment eligibility forms (502's) should provide an accurate picture of your operation. The same shares should carry through on crop reporting shares, etc. In addition, it's just as important that all your commodity contracts, accounts with businesses that provide receipts for FSA documentation, etc., are in the same "name" of the entity as represented by our farm records.**

**Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our programs.**

**Corporations and like entities are required to submit copies of yearly corporate minutes so our office can verify officers, members, shares, signature authority, and notate any changes in the operation.**

**Please do not hesitate to contact this office with any questions on this important issue.**

### **USDA Works to Protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII)**

**USDA has formally launched a Department-wide campaign to make certain that producers' "personally identifiable information" or PII, is being protected.**

**The PII generally refers to information which is maintained by a USDA agency about an individual, including USDA customers and USDA employees. Information may include details of financial transactions between a customer and the Department, such unique information as a Social Security number and a date or place of birth which could be used to trace an individual's identity, and other personal information including medical or criminal history which is linkable to a particular individual.**

**As part of USDA's official policy on social security numbers, USDA will collect, use, maintain, and/or disseminate social security numbers only when required by statute or when specifically authorized to do so. USDA agencies will not use the number as an identity number. Agencies must mask or encrypt social security numbers so that they cannot be viewed on computer screens, reports, or other products. Agencies will not use social security numbers to access customer records.**

**No new Farm Bill yet, so . . . . .**

**NOW IS THE TIME to contact your local FSA office for an appointment to update your records for the 2008 crop year.**

**SET A DATE NOW to complete your 2005/2006/2007 livestock or crop disaster application !**

**CALL US AT 707-678-1931 EXT 2.**

**US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Solano-Napa County Farm Service Agency  
1170 North Lincoln Street, Suite 109  
Dixon, California 95620**

**COUNTY FSA OFFICE HOURS: 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday  
Closed on Holidays**

**Closed: Monday, Feb 18 – President's Day  
Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day**

The Solano-Napa County Committee (COC) regularly scheduled meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 PM in the county FSA office. These are public meetings.

**IMPORTANT WEB PAGES**

**USDA Homepage: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)**

**Farm Service Agency: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)**

**California State FSA Homepage: [www.fsa.usda.gov/ca/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca/)**

**Risk Management Agency: [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)**

**Natural Resource Conservation Service: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)**

**Solano County Ag Commissioner: [www.solanocounty.com](http://www.solanocounty.com)**

**Napa County Ag Commissioner:**

**<http://www.co.napa.ca.us/Gov/Departments/DeptDefault.asp?DID=26400>**

*Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.*

*The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*